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New Scholarship for
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PDK Summit Focuses On Teachers

As the current debates over the purposes of public schools and what makes for quality teachers and teaching continue to rage, the voices of the nation's best teachers are seldom heard, understood, and embraced. Drawing on best empirical evidence and the virtual Teacher Leaders Network, I will present a fresh view of what makes for a good teacher in the 21st century. – Barnett Berry, founder and president of the Center for Teaching Quality, Inc.

Despite all of the technical/technological advances in teaching and learning, at the heart of the enterprise is the teacher. This presentation will underscore the pivotal role of teachers in assuring that students achieve and point to our need to improve teacher education. – Gloria Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Chair of Urban Education and chair of the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Long-used in the business world, behavior-based interviewing (BBI) is built on the premise that past behavior is the best predictor of future performance. When applied to teacher selection, BBI enhances the chances of making the right hire: a teacher who is effective from the beginning and who can develop into a great educator. – Mary C. Clement, associate professor of teacher education at Berry College

Don't miss the chance to hear Barnett Berry, Gloria Ladson-Billings, and Mary C. Clement expand on these themes as part of the 2008 PDK International Summit on High-Performing Educators. In addition to conducting sessions on the topics above, these three featured speakers will take part in a panel discussion about what makes a great teacher. The discussion will be moderated by Thomas R. Guskey, an expert widely known for his research in education reform, assessment, and professional development. Guskey, a Distinguished Service Professor at Georgetown College, will also deliver the summit's keynote address.

After listening to these experts, summit attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the issues themselves during a roundtable session, and a report in the February issue of the *Phi Delta Kappan* will capture these conversations. Thought-provoking breakout sessions, delivered by your colleagues, will suggest more answers—and raise more questions—as we continue to think and talk about what makes a great teacher.

Register now to attend the summit and take part in these critical conversations by going to www.pdksummit.org.



When You Go

What: PDK International Summit on High-Performing Educators

Where: Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, Texas

When: November 13-15

How to register: Go to www.pdksummit.org

Kappan Editor-in-Chief
Joan Richardson will
lead a pre-conference
session at the PDK
summit. *For more details,*
see page 4.

RON CLARK TO SPEAK AT FEA CONFERENCE

Ron Clark, also known as "America's Educator," will be the keynote speaker at the 2009 Future Educators Association (FEA) conference. Clark, author of *The Essential 55*, was named Disney's American Teacher of the Year in 2000. Since then, he has been invited to the White House to be honored by the President and First Lady three times and has been interviewed by Katie Couric on the *Today Show*. Clark has appeared twice on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, and his experiences as a teacher are the subject of the critically-acclaimed movie, *The Ron Clark Story*, which stars Matthew Perry as Clark.

"We couldn't be more excited that Ron Clark will be speaking to our students," said Amanda Graham, FEA coordinator. "He has all the qualities that we anticipate for the next generation of great teachers: hope, commitment, and dedication. Ron will encourage our audience to never let anything stand in the way of their desire to make a difference in the lives of children."

The FEA conference will be held February 13-15, 2009, in Denver, Colorado. For more information, go to <http://www.pdkintl.org/fea/feaconf.htm>.

State FEA Director Expands Program Through Partnerships

Gerry Corcoran was a teacher for 17 years and an administrator for 13 more. That gives him credibility when he talks to administrators about the benefits of having an education professions or FEA (Future Educators Association) program.



"I feel my background lends a lot of personal insight into the shortages in education and how we can address these through collaboration and empowering our students in leadership roles on campus," said Corcoran, the Arizona FEA state director.

Corcoran, who works in the Arizona Department of Education, has put together one of the top FEA programs in the nation, according to Amanda Graham, coordinator of the Future Educators Association.

"If you want to see an immense, highly-effective conference for kids who are interested in teaching, you need to visit Arizona's event each spring," Graham said. "Gerry's influence is evident in every detail, but you'll see student leaders in the limelight. The Arizona FEA program is not only recruiting teachers—it's a catalyst for teacher leaders."

The statewide Arizona FEA program offers two state conferences each year that provide more than 20 workshops on different aspects of teaching. This was also the fourth year for a five-day Summer Academy at Arizona State University, where students develop the School of the Future as they think about what education will be like in five to 10 years.

"We want to extend this program to our other state universities and eventually become a training center for all universities to host their own academies," Corcoran said.

The Arizona FEA program has just received an NSF Technology Literacy Grant, which will enable it to provide technology training to teachers as a way to infuse the latest technology in instruction across the state. He is working with ASU to develop a summer technology camp for students that focuses on these same skills.

As part of an initiative to expand the program to 150 chapters and 2,500 students by 2010, Corcoran is also creating partnerships with many agencies, including the Maricopa Community Colleges. In the past year, the Arizona FEA program has grown from 40 chapters to more than 100.

"Seeing the passion of our students and their desire to enter into the teaching profession is probably the most rewarding part of my job," Corcoran said. "I also enjoy the partnerships and networking with our community colleges and universities, as we create seamless pathways for students to continue their education into the teaching profession."

NEW FACES AT PDK

Meet PDK's New Staff Members:

Cathy Ruf—Director of Office Operations

Cathy holds a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Indiana University and is a Certified Public Accountant. Additionally, Cathy holds her J.D. from the School of Law at Indiana University and is a licensed attorney in the state of Indiana.



Previously, Cathy was employed as the controller at National Salvage & Service Corp. in Bloomington, where she provided financial leadership enabling the firm to grow to a \$30 million operation.

At PDK, Cathy provides leadership and supervision in providing accurate, timely, and meaningful financial information to the PDK International Board, the PDK Board of Governors, and the PDK staff.

Jacque Groves—Assistant Director of Office Operations: Accounts Receivable/Payroll

Jacque holds a bachelor of science degree in business, with an emphasis in finance and accounting, from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business.



Previously, Jacque served as an accountant at the Bloomington-based Internal Medicine Associates, where her duties included daily cash balancing and monthly cash forecasting. Jacque has also held the position of director of finance & administration, controller, at the Monroe County Convention & Visitors Bureau. In that position, she handled all functions related to finance, payroll, and accounting.

At PDK, Jacque has assumed responsibility for processing payroll and monitoring employee benefits. She supports Cathy in daily operations by preparing bank deposits, processing invoices, and handling other accounts receivable functions.

DeShawn Easley—Assistant Director for Leadership Development and Chapter Services

DeShawn holds a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry from Indiana University-Purdue University.

DeShawn comes to PDK from Reach for Youth, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Indianapolis, Indiana. At Reach for Youth, DeShawn served as the program manager responsible for developing collaborative programs with non-profit agencies, local juvenile courts, public health coalitions, and school systems. She has experience in directing and supervising volunteer programs.



At PDK, DeShawn works with Amy Kemp and Annie Krysl in providing leadership and support for the PDK goal of engaging, supporting, and recognizing PDK members in their work to ensure high-quality education.

Annie Krysl—Assistant Director for Leadership Development and Chapter Services

Annie holds a bachelor of science degree in public administration and a master of science degree in child, youth, and family studies, both from the University of Nebraska.

Annie has relocated to Bloomington from Chicago, Illinois, where she served as a membership/field service liaison with National Parent Teacher Association (PTA). At the PTA, Annie assisted state leaders with membership requirements and the management of the state organization. She developed state, district, and council PTA leadership training, and she trained state and local leaders on the organization's online membership data reporting system.



At PDK, Annie works with Amy Kemp and DeShawn Easley in providing leadership and support for the PDK goal of engaging, supporting, and recognizing PDK members in their work to ensure high-quality education.

Jenifer Terry—Administrative Assistant, Customer Service Representative

In addition to earning her high school diploma, Jenifer has taken several continuing education computer and accounting courses through Indiana University.

Jenifer's previous work experience includes customer service support providing phone and e-mail assistance to clients who needed assistance navigating organization-specific software, maintaining a client database, and handling basic accounting functions.

At PDK, Jenifer lends support in the administrative assistance/customer service area along with Debbie Webb, Diana Daugherty, Leslie Mefford, and Terri Hampton.



PDK/GALLUP POLL RESULTS ARE IN

The results of the 40th annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools are in. To check out the poll materials, go to www.pdkeducationpoll.org. A report is published in the September issue of the *Phi Delta Kappan*.



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Son Honors Mother with Scholarship

Mother to Son

by Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor —
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now --
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

Jimmie's son, PDK CML Andre Elliott says, "My earliest recollection, as the fourth child of seven, was seeing how hard my mother worked to raise her children without a father and without many of the comforts of life. My mother came from places with boards torn up, places with no carpet on the floor, bare. All the time, she kept rising. She was a lifelong learner long before it became a popular notion, serving in myriad management and leadership positions as the first female of her color. Her life is my inspiration."

Andre decided earlier this year to make his gratitude to his mother tangible with the creation of The Jimmie Elliott Crystal Stair Scholarship. Prospective educators who demonstrate need will benefit in perpetuity from Andre's gift, and we will remember Jimmie Elliott as



Andre Elliot with his mother, Jimmie, and his son, Takao

each year's recipient is named. It is Andre's hope that the Jimmie Elliott Crystal Stair Scholarship will inspire students whose lives have not been a crystal stair to keep moving forward and not simply sit down on the stairs.

The Jimmie Elliott Crystal Stair Scholarship will benefit from the PDK Educational Foundation's post-centennial matching program. When the scholarship fund reaches \$10,000, the Foundation will add \$2,000 from the general endowment, increasing the scholarship fund's value by 20 percent.

If you would like information about using the Foundation's matching program to create a lasting legacy for yourself or in honor or memory of a loved one by funding a scholarship with PDK, please contact Lynn Lewis at llewis@pdkintl.org or 800-766-1156. Andre can tell you that it's never been an easier—or a more meaningful—thing to do.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP FEATURES KAPPAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Do you want to write for a professional magazine or newsletter, but you aren't quite sure how to begin? Then sign up to attend *Writing for Professional Publications*, the pre-conference workshop at the PDK International Summit on High-Performing Educators.

Led by *Phi Delta Kappan* editor-in-chief Joan Richardson, the session will help you organize your thoughts and includes tips to help you edit your writing to achieve the style most publications favor. By the time the half-day session concludes, you'll have pieces of your article already written.

Sign up now at www.pdksummit.org.

How would you like to honor a truly great teacher in a meaningful way? And what would you say if we told you that by honoring that great teacher you could raise money to ensure that we have more great teachers in the future?

The Chalk WalkSM will allow you to do just that—support the next generation of great teachers in their own communities, while recognizing those great teachers who made a difference in your life and the lives of others.

There's no secret about what makes schools great—it's great teachers. Chalk WalkSM funds will help us identify, recruit, and train the best and brightest young people.

What is the Chalk WalkSM?

It's a familiar event with a new twist. We've taken our annual PDK walk and raised it to a new level. Now your school or university community can benefit. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community leaders from all over the United States and around the world will join forces to honor great teachers and raise money to ensure that we will have even more great teachers in the future.

When is the Chalk WalkSM?

The Chalk WalkSM will take place in spring 2009 on a date that works in your community.

How do I learn more?

It's not too early to start planning. Call Lynn Lewis, PDK's development director, at 800-766-1156 or send email to llewis@pdkintl.org.

**Chalk WalkSM—Great teachers + your support = more great teachers.
Be a part of the equation!**

Honor Great
Teachers
with PDK's
Chalk WalkSM

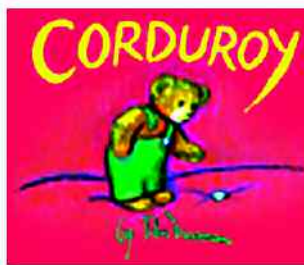


Five Things to Know About Jumpstart's Read for the Record

1 What is Jumpstart's Read for the Record? It is a campaign designed to bring attention to the importance of early education. By encouraging hundreds of thousands of children and adults to read the same book (*Corduroy*) on the same day, Jumpstart aims to break the world record and continue to make early childhood education a national priority.

2 When is it? On October 2, children and adults will read together at events nationwide in schools, libraries, stores, hotels, playgrounds, offices, and homes.

3 How are PDK and FEA involved? PDK and FEA have a partnership with Jumpstart's Read for the Record and our participation in this initiative is worthwhile and fun! Plan a chapter event for your PDK or FEA chapter to get out and read to kids on October 2.



4 How do I buy copies of *Corduroy* for our event? There's a link to buy books at our Read for the Record webpage, www.pdkintl.org/fea/read.htm.

5 How do we help break the Guinness World Record? There are steps you need to take to document your event. For more details, check out the flyer at www.pdkintl.org/fea/read.htm.



Passing the Torch

by Bill Bushaw,
Executive Director

Watching the Olympics, we witnessed the passing of the torch. A torch was also passed at PDK. Bruce Smith, editor of the *Phi Delta Kappan* since 2003, retired in May. In addition to being an excellent editor, Bruce knew something about everything. I often wondered if it was his Massachusetts Institute of Technology mind (Bruce is a proud MIT alum). I enjoyed our conversations about mega ocean waves as much as I did those we had about high school reform.

Finding a new *Kappan* editor-in-chief became our top priority. Who would follow in the footsteps of Stanley Elam, Bob Cole, Pauline Gough, and Bruce Smith? One name surfaced as the person who could accept the torch—Joan Richardson.

Joan began her career as a reporter and quickly established herself as a rising star in

the newspaper world. She served in various capacities, including deputy business editor at a major metropolitan newspaper and later as an award-winning education writer.

Twelve years ago, Joan joined the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) as its director of communications and executive editor of *JSD*, formerly the *Journal of Staff Development*. Her impact at NSDC was immediate and profound. She transformed the *JSD*'s content and appearance, introduced several new newsletters for the organization, and implemented a new publications business model.

In July, Joan became the *Kappan*'s new editor-in-chief. She understands the key education issues, she knows the leaders and thinkers within the field, and she will help us refine and enhance our journal so that it remains a primary resource in the education policy arena. The torch has been passed.

Joan Richardson—Editor-in-Chief, *Phi Delta Kappan*

Joan Richardson holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and history from Indiana University and has done additional graduate work in business. She also received the Michigan Journalism Fellowship in Business and Economics, a prestigious award that allowed her to spend a year studying the globalization of American business away from deadline pressure.

Previously, she was director of communications at the National Staff Development Council for 12 years. She transformed the *JSD*'s content and appearance, introduced several new newsletters for the organization, and substantially improved the number and quality of books published by the organization. She previously had been deputy business editor at a major metropolitan newspaper and an award-winning education writer.

Under her leadership, *JSD* received the Excel Award for Most Improved Magazine in 1999, awarded by the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP). NSDC also received SNAP's Excel Award for Most Improved Newsletter, in 1998. *The Learning System*, one of NSDC's member newsletters, received an honorable mention in ASAE's Gold Circle publications competition this summer.

At PDK, Richardson sets the agenda for *Kappan*, working with associate editor David Ruetschlin and designer Carol Bucheri to create a powerful magazine each month that inspires and compels educators to improve the learning of all students.



AT A GLANCE

Florida Middle School Teacher Receives Award

Joseph Cofield, a middle school teacher and member of PDK chapter #1152, has received the Professional Educators Network of Florida State Educator of the Year award. Cofield, who has been teaching for nine years, began his education career through the Troops to Teachers program when he left the U.S. Army.



In addition to teaching, Cofield started an FEA chapter at his school, helped organize an annual Walk for Education, coordinated Read for the Record in his district, and participates in several community organizations. He also has helped secure scholarships for students in his college preparatory class.

PDK Audits Bermuda Standards



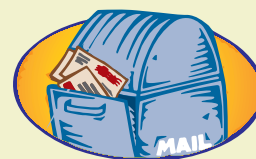
A PDK curriculum audit of the Bermuda National Curriculum Standards took place this summer. Eleven auditors spent five days on site analyzing the design and delivery of the newly-crafted Bermuda curriculum standards. The analysis included identifying and noting distinctions and characteristics of the Bermuda curriculum standards and the level of congruency of the Bermuda curriculum with the British National Curriculum Standards, the International Baccalaureate Curriculum Standards, and the American subject area curriculum standards. A report of the auditors' findings will be delivered to the Bermuda Ministry of Education later this fall.

Meet PDK's 2008-09 Class of Emerging Leaders

The 2008-09 Class of Emerging Leaders was selected from a competitive class of applicants based on their outstanding professional accomplishments. The careers of these 20 young leaders exemplify the PDK tenets of leadership, research, and service. To learn more about these educators and listen to interviews with them, go to www.pdkemergingleaders.org. The PDK Emerging Leader program honors educators who are age 40 or younger when they are nominated for this award.

Listen to Interviews with Kappan Authors

Do you have questions for *Phi Delta Kappan* authors? Now you can get them answered! We will interview one author each month. Watch to see which author we're interviewing and e-mail us a question for the author. Then listen to the podcast to hear the response. No special equipment is needed—only a computer. Go to www.pdkintl.org/podcasts/podcasts.htm, select the interview you want to hear, and start listening. To have interviews automatically sent to your computer as soon as they're posted, or to hear past interviews, subscribe to the podcast series.



Send Us Your News

PDK members are doing great things every day! We want to share the news of your accomplishments—and those of your fellow PDK chapter members—with PDK members across the world. Please tell us about your success stories so that we can publish them online and in print. Did you receive an award? Lead a successful project in your school, university, or district? Have you recently been promoted or changed jobs? You can send information to Annie Krysl at akrysl@pdkintl.org.

Online Services Available for Members

Would you like to update the address at which you receive PDK e-mails? Change your mailing address? Share your occupation with us? It's easy! Just log in at www.pdkintl.org and check out all the options available to you.

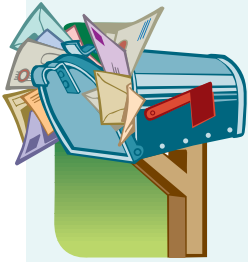


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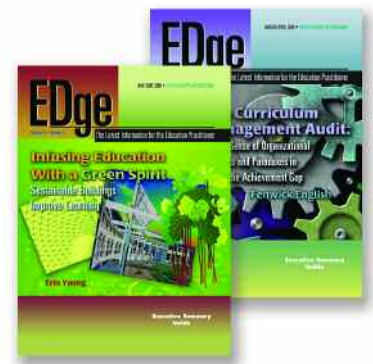
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Your Phi Delta Kappa International member newsletter

New Membership Category Includes Printed *EDge*

Would you like to receive a print copy of the bimonthly *EDge* magazine as part of your PDK member benefits? Then consider upgrading your professional membership to this new, enhanced membership category! For only \$10 per year more, you can receive all five issues of *EDge: The Latest Information for the Education Practitioner* in print. To upgrade your membership, go to www.pdkintl.org or call 800-766-1156.



PDK—The experts in cultivating great educators for tomorrow and ensuring high-quality education for today